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Activities not classified by field: Presentation of statistical data and metadata

Report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on presentation of statistical data and metadata

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fifth session,[a] the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for information. Following the presentation to the Commission in 2004 of an outline for a proposed *Data and Metadata Reporting and Presentation Handbook*, OECD prepared draft versions of the *Handbook*. The draft presented to the Commission in 2005 as a background document incorporates comments and suggestions received from international organizations and national agencies in both OECD and non-OECD countries over the last 12 months. It should be emphasized that the format etc. of the *Handbook* allows for the incorporation of emerging issues on data presentation as they arise in future. Final comments and guidance are sought from member countries on the second draft of the *Handbook*, particularly on the issues outlined in section V of the present report.

* E/CN.3/2005/1.
[a] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 4* (E/2004/24), chap. I.A.

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Report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on presentation of statistical data and metadata

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I. Background

1. A proposal for the development of a handbook containing guidelines and recommendations for the reporting and presentation of data and metadata was submitted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to the Statistical Commission for guidance at its thirty-fifth session, in March 2004. The Commission took note of the work done by OECD in the preparation of the proposal.

2. Following the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, OECD prepared a first draft of the *Data and Metadata Reporting and Presentation Handbook*, drawing on existing relevant international statistical guidelines and recommendations and advice etc. from national statistical institutes and central banks in OECD member countries. That draft was first presented and discussed at the June 2004 meeting of the OECD Short-term Economic Statistics Expert Group and subsequently at the fourth meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) in September 2004. CCSA expressed strong support for the development of such a *Handbook*, which it believed would also constitute a useful reference source for developing countries. It was suggested that feedback on draft versions from non-OECD countries should be actively sought as well as the inclusion of presentation practices in non-economic statistical areas. Committee members also noted the significance of the *Handbook* in the context of the work on statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX) in particular and in making effective arrangements for sharing of data among international agencies in general.

3. The second draft of the *Handbook* is submitted to the Commission for comment as a background document.

II. Scope of the *Data and Metadata Reporting and Presentation Handbook*

4. The *Handbook* draws a clear distinction between data-presentation standards involving table layout, font, type faces, readability, graphical presentation etc. used by both international organizations and national agencies and standards for the reporting of data by national agencies to international organizations. Although the *Handbook* touches on issues of presentation, it also outlines standards for data reporting. It provides a small number of specific recommendations covering the two broad dimensions in which all data may be reported, namely:

- Types of data: absolute figures, indices, growth rates and ratios
- Form of data: raw (original or non-seasonally adjusted series), working day adjusted, seasonally adjusted, trend-cycle.

5. The *Handbook* also emphasizes the need for national agencies and international organizations to prepare adequate metadata describing concepts, collection and processing practices, as well as reporting and presentation practices. Such metadata must also be readily accessible and understood by users with different degrees of statistical expertise. Recommendations here will pick up on previous work (and work to be undertaken over the next 12 months) by the Workshop on Statistical Metadata.

6. In addition, the draft *Handbook* covers a small number of key data-reporting practices that also have a significant impact on data interpretability and in respect of which the different approaches that are currently used by national and international agencies complicate comparisons of national data. These include different:

- Data revision presentation practices
- Reporting practices for the presentation of series breaks
- Inconsistent practices for the linking of time series
- Practices for the reporting of sampling and non-sampling errors
- Base years in the presentation of indices
- Citation practices
- Incomplete practices for the presentation of administrative data.

7. The *Handbook* outlines key recommendations and/or good practice with regard to each of these. Such practices are consistent with sound governance in statistics encompassed, either implicitly or explicitly, in the United Nations *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* and the United Nations *Handbook on the Operation and Organization of a Statistical Agency*. The range of reporting practices outlined the initial version of the *Handbook* could be expanded in subsequent web versions to include other emerging data and metadata reporting and presentation issues. Finally, the introductory sections of the *Handbook* provide context and linkages to current international initiatives on data and metadata exchange, in particular those under the umbrella of SDMX.

III. Work on the *Handbook* undertaken since March 2004

8. The second draft of the *Handbook* incorporates comments and suggestions provided by numerous national statistical institutes and central banks in OECD member countries. Very detailed input was also received from other international organizations, in particular, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Comments from the Bank included recommendations etc. relevant to social and demographic statistics that have been incorporated into the second draft, although further input from other international organizations and national agencies for these statistical domains are still required. The current draft has also been referred to relevant agencies in all OECD member countries for final comment.

9. Comments and suggestions regarding data presentation and reporting practices specific to developing countries are sought both through the consultation process associated with the thirty-sixth session of the Commission and by a more targeted approach to a range of developing countries undertaken by OECD, with the assistance of each of the regional commissions in December 2004. The second draft of the *Handbook* has also been disseminated to all CCSA members for final comment, including United Nations specialist organizations.

IV. Future work and timelines

10. The schedule for the preparation and issuance of the *Handbook* is provided below. OECD will incorporate relevant comments and suggestions into a final version of the *Handbook* for submission to the OECD Committee on Statistics for approval in June 2005. Hard-copy and web versions of the *Handbook* will be published in the second half of 2005. Publication will coincide with a publicity campaign by OECD to encourage implementation of the guidelines and recommendations included in the *Handbook* and for national and international organizations to provide appropriate references and links to it on their web sites etc.

Steps in the preparation and issuance of the Handbook	*Time frame*
Submission to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-sixth session, OECD member countries, developing countries and CCSA members for comment	17 December 2004
Incorporation of comments and suggestions from the above constituencies in the preparation of the final draft of the *Handbook*	1 May 2005
Submission to OECD Committee on Statistics for endorsement	June 2005
Publication of English and French language versions by OECD	September-November 2005
Development of data and metadata reporting and presentation web site to incorporate emerging issues	31 August 2005
Campaign to publicize both hard-copy and web versions of the *Handbook*	September-December 2005

11. One of the issues discussed with a number of agencies in the preparation of the second draft of the *Handbook* concerns the appropriate balance in the level of detail and background information that should be included in the actual text of the *Handbook*. There is a wide range of literature on many of the topics covered in the *Handbook* at both the national and international levels and those used in the preparation of the *Handbook* to date are provided in the list of references at the back of the draft version.

12. The authors of the *Handbook* are still coming to grips with obtaining an appropriate balance between providing sufficient detail and specific guidance on reporting and presentation recommendations that would be of use to users without making the resulting publication too large and unwieldy. Extensive use has been made of links and references and publications. Furthermore, the final draft of the *Handbook* will also include selected examples of good practice in information boxes, which will serve both to illustrate the recommendations and provide breaks in the text.

V. Issues for which comments and guidance are sought

13. Comments and guidance are sought with regard to:

(a) The scope of issues currently included in the draft *Handbook*. Are any relevant/key data and metadata presentation and reporting issues not covered for:

- **Social and demographic statistics**
- **Developing countries**
- **Annual statistics**
- **Economic statistics**

(b) Any relevant sources/references at the national or international levels that are not currently used. These include relevant examples of recommended practice on data presentation and reporting.

14. Comments and suggestions can also be forwarded directly to Denis Ward (denis.ward@oecd.org).

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Activities not classified by field: common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

Report of the task force to establish standards on data and metadata exchange

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fifth session,[a] the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the task force to establish standards on data and metadata exchange. The report is presented to the Commission for information.

* E/CN.3/2005/1.
[a] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 4* (E/2004/24), chap. I.A.

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Report on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of socio-economic data and metadata: the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange initiative[1]

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I. Introduction

1. The Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative fosters standards for the exchange of statistics and related metadata. The initiative is sponsored by the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the Statistical Office of European Communities (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations and the World Bank.

2. The Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange started its activities in 2001. Since then, the Chair of the SDMX Sponsors Committee has regularly reported to the Statistical Commission on progress and has envisaged the next steps. The 2004 report provided a wide-ranging review of the initiative's goals and initial achievements and highlighted the way forward.[2] The present report focuses on progress since March 2004 in establishing standards and on practical steps to implement those standards in statistical domains.

II. Progress since March 2004

3. A newly designed SDMX web site was launched in May 2004, providing new functionality to support the initiative's activities and communication. Key sections of the web site (http://www.sdmx.org) include the following:

- What's new in SDMX. A news area on the site to bring the latest developments in Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange to the attention of users
- E-alerts. E-mail information for users, allowing them to receive important announcements by email about SDMX and its projects
- Standards. The central point on the site for details about evolving SDMX standards
- Knowledge centre. A "one-stop shopping" location where users can find and download all SDMX documents available on the web site
- Case study demo. A link to a demonstration facility that illustrates how SDMX functionality can be applied to the case of external debt statistics
- Status of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange projects. Snapshots of the latest developments and a starting point for navigating to more information about projects

4. A new pilot project was announced on the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange web site in May 2004. Its goals are to develop a coherent structure of SDMX standards and freely available tools for data exchange and dissemination on the World Wide Web, and to launch a web-based reference implementation. In going forward, the following steps have thus far been taken:

- A first draft of SDMX standards (Version 1.0) was released for public review and comment (from end May to end July 2004).
- Following a review of public and project team input on the draft standards, which involved comments from national and international statistical agencies, the SDMX Sponsors Committee approved the release of SDMX Version 1.0 standards on 30 September 2004.

- Developments are on schedule with regard to the release of freely available tools based on the standards, fostering data exchange and dissemination of statistical information in conformity with SDMX formats.

5. Efforts are also now under way to take the SDMX Version 1.0 standards forward for adoption within the framework of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In anticipation of that step, the documents released on the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange web site were designed as formal technical specifications and cover the following topics:

- Framework. Introduces the documents in the Version 1.0 package and provides requirements for conformance
- Information model. Unified Modeling Language (UML) conceptual design: provides a detailed explanation of the SDMX information model complete with UML diagrams. Includes tutorials on key families and UML notation
- SDMX-ML. Specifies and documents the Extensible Markup Language (XML) formats for describing structure and data (accompanied by a file with XML schemas and samples)
- SDMX-EDI. Specifies and documents the Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) format for describing structure and data (includes samples)
- Implementer's guide for SDMX format standards. Provides best practices and information for implementers, including an overview of the information model intended for those working with the formats
- Web services guidelines. Provides suggestions for the use of SDMX-ML formats in web services

6. At the last meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities held in September 2004, the activities of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange initiative were recognized as an important building block of the international statistical system. In particular, technical standards for data and metadata exchange to be developed under the initiative should complement methodological standards developed by international organizations, to help data providers and data receivers to improve the efficiency of their activities and improve coherence and interpretability of statistics disseminated by national and international organizations.

7. Presentations about Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange developments were organized for potential users in central banks and national statistical agencies, taking advantage of a network of regional and international working groups and committees that address statistical and related information technology topics. In the exchange of views, the importance of national input in creating sound and useful international standards was stressed. Moreover, important benefits were envisaged to follow from active national participation in SDMX-conformant implementation exercises with regional and international institutions.

III. Next steps

8. The pilot project is now turning its attention to the following:

- Two major analytical efforts (see below), to complete the development of a coherent set of standards for the forthcoming draft Version 2.0 release envisaged for the second quarter of 2005
- A production implementation based on SDMX standards in an initial statistical domain

The first analytical area involves technical issues concerning SDMX architecture standards. The work will highlight the important role of the Internet and web technologies, allowing data and metadata to be "pulled" rather than "pushed" vis-à-vis data compilers and users. The essential mechanism of the architecture is a registry, which is basically a high-level catalogue or database that stores summary information only about data and metadata (not the actual data or metadata) and contains pointers to the locations where the data and metadata can be accessed. An SDMX-conformant registry will be one of the products of the pilot project, to be used by interested parties to pull data from original sources.

The second analytical area concerns standards for metadata:

- Core subject-matter domains. Providing a commonly used classification of statistical areas to facilitate efficient use of SDMX architecture standards and to foster expert groups working together on common domain-specific identifiers (key/concept families) for data and metadata exchange using SDMX formats
- Core statistical concepts. Articulating an agreed set of cross-domain statistical terms used to identify data being exchanged (structural metadata) and to explain statistics being compiled (reference metadata involving methodologies and processes)
- Metadata common vocabulary. Comprising metadata terms, and their associated definitions, regularly used across statistical subject-matter domains to describe and explain content and processes and to facilitate agreement on terminology for SDMX core statistical concepts (see current draft version available on http://www.sdmx.org)

Finally, production implementation of the Pilot Project will focus on the subject matter of external debt statistics. It will build on the work of the SDMX case study project and will involve close coordination with the Inter-agency Task Force on Finance Statistics. A new Bank for International Settlements-International Monetary Fund-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-World Bank joint external debt hub is scheduled to be available by the end of 2005.

9. Awareness and opportunities for applying SDMX standards in other subject matter domains appears to be growing, with the following areas envisaged to make progress in the months ahead:

- The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is the first known institution applying experimental SDMX case study standards for the public release of official foreign exchange data (http://www.newyorkfed.org/xml/fx.html), and other financial market domain data are also being considered.

- The OECD National Accounts World Wide Exchange (NAWWE) project is taking steps forward to integrate SDMX standards for this statistical domain.
- The United Nations Statistics Division and the OECD will be making use of Version 1.0 standards in their collaborative work on the Commodity Trade Statistics Database.
- Eurostat has started work on a pilot project (SDMX Open Database Interchange (SODI)) to evaluate the use of SDMX standards and tools to achieve more rapid dissemination of the Eurostat Principal European Economic Indicators for European Union member States.
- The European Central Bank, together with the euro area national central banks, is conducting a project concerning web dissemination of a range of financial statistics.

IV. Conclusions

10. As noted in the previous report to the Statistical Commission,[2] the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange initiative has the potential to make an important contribution in helping international and national agencies involved in the production of statistical data and metadata to become more efficient in their internal operations and to provide users with higher-quality service.

11. With SDMX standards being based on evolving information and communication technology (ICT), they represent a new cooperative effort among international organizations:

- To minimize the duplication of data and metadata collections
- To maximize the coherence of data sets disseminated by various international organizations on the same subject matter
- To improve the accessibility and interpretability of statistics disseminated by international organizations
- To automate the data exchange processes and gain efficiency from the use of up-to-date ICT tools

12. In some cases, SDMX standards may offer statistical "communities" the possibility of reconsidering the current pattern of data and metadata exchange. Moreover, new models for data exchange and dissemination based on the concept of a "hub" (a common registry keeping track of data and metadata available on a network of web sites of partners) can reinforce the opportunities for better coordinating current flows between data providers and international compilers. Similarly, international organizations have the opportunity to share data and metadata among themselves and with other users, and establish new ways to co-manage international statistical activities and to cooperate in that regard.

Notes

[1] The report has been jointly prepared by the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the Statistical Office of European Communities, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank.

[2] See E/CN.3/2004/27; also available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2004.htm.

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Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development. The report is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fifth session.[a] It is presented to the Commission for information.

* E/CN.3/2005/1.

[a] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 4* (E/2004/24), chap. I.A.

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Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

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I. Introduction

1. During its thirty-fifth session, the Commission considered the issue of information and communication technology (ICT) statistics as part of the agenda. After consideration of several documents, the Commission inter alia emphasized the need for a coordinated effort to further develop indicators for ICT, and expressed the need for capacity-building in the area, in particular in developing countries.

2. The present report, which is a joint contribution of several international agencies involved in the statistical measurement of information and communication technologies, presents an overview of work currently under way in the international community in the area of information and communication technology statistics. It will first give a brief overview of the global Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development, including its objectives and activities. It will then present the outcome of a global stock-taking exercise on official ICT statistics at the national level. That will be followed by an overview of core ICT indicators currently under consideration by the international community covering such areas as basic infrastructure and access, households, businesses, the information and communication technology sector and education.

II. Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

3. Following the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held at Geneva in December 2003, a number of key international stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of information and communication technologies joined forces to create the global Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development. The Partnership was formally launched during the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI), held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in June 2004. Current partners include the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), four regional commissions (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)), the ICT Task Force of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) and the World Bank. National statistical offices in statistically advanced countries are invited to contribute to Partnership activities and provide expertise and advice to offices in developing countries as well as transfer knowledge in such areas as methodologies and survey programmes.

A. Objectives

4. The Partnership aims to accommodate and develop further the various initiatives regarding the availability and measurement of ICT indicators at the national, regional and international levels. It provides an open framework for

coordinating ongoing and future activities and for developing a coherent and structured approach to advancing the development of ICT indicators globally, in particular in developing countries.

5. The objectives of the Partnership are (a) to achieve a common set of core ICT indicators, to be harmonized and agreed upon internationally, which will constitute the basis for a database on ICT statistics; (b) to enhance the capacities of national statistical offices in developing countries and build competence to develop statistical compilation programmes on the information society, based on internationally agreed indicators; and (c) to develop a global database on ICT indicators and make it available on the Internet.

B. Activities

6. Since the Partnership was launched, the following activities have been carried out under its umbrella:

- A global stock-taking exercise on the status of information society statistics in national statistical offices started in the summer of 2004. The outcomes of the exercise, carried out through a metadata questionnaire, are summarized in chapter III.
- Regional workshops, with the participation of national statistical offices, have been organized throughout the second half of 2004 in order to take into consideration the results of the stock-taking exercise and of e-measurement efforts in the regions. Workshops have taken place in Western Asia (Beirut, October 2004), Africa (Gaborone, October 2004), and Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago de Chile, November 2004). The workshops identified regional priorities for action in the area of ICT indicators and produced regional lists of core indicators to be collected by countries.
- A briefing for potential donors took place at Geneva in October 2004, to request support for Partnership activities, in particular through the financing of technical assistance activities necessary to help developing countries to produce information society statistics. The capacity-building activities included on-site training in national statistical offices, technical workshops at the regional level, the development of a training course on information society statistics and the preparation of a guidebook on information society indicators.

7. The global World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Thematic Meeting on Measuring the Information Society will take place in Geneva under the umbrella of the Partnership from 7 to 9 February 2005, to present the results of the global stock-taking exercise, consolidate the outcomes of the regional workshops and agree on a final list of core indicators. The meeting will also discuss technical assistance needs of developing countries with respect to the compilation of ICT indicators, identification of ICT indicators relevant to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and presentation of ongoing work concerning the development of an international database on ICT indicators. The outcome will be presented as an input to the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis in November 2005.

8. A second phase of the Partnership is envisaged from November 2005 to the first half of 2008. The objective of the second phase is to disseminate and expand the work on measuring ICT, thus increasing ICT data availability at the international

level. This objective will be achieved by further developing the capacity-building activities of the first phase and extending training programmes to new beneficiary countries. The international database on ICT indicators will be developed further. The outcomes of the General Assembly high-level plenary meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (September 2005) and of the Summit in Tunis (November 2005) will be incorporated into the planning of the second phase of the Partnership project.

III. Global status of information and communication technology statistics

9. In July 2004, a global exercise taking stock of ICT indicators was initiated in various regions through a metadata questionnaire on the current status of information society statistics, which was sent to national statistical offices in developing countries. The objectives of the exercise were (a) to take inventory of existing and planned ICT indicators, questionnaires and methods of collecting statistics; (b) to collect information that could lead towards standardized definitions and a set of commonly accepted ICT core indicators; and (c) to identify best practices and needs of national statistical offices in order to prepare technical assistance and an exchange of knowledge. The questionnaire was divided into four sections: general questions on ICT statistics; ICT statistics in household surveys; ICT statistics in business surveys; and ICT statistics in others sectors, such as industry and trade, education or Government.

10. The questionnaire was sent by the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to statistical offices in their member countries. UNCTAD sent the questionnaire to Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member countries not covered by OECD or Eurostat. A summary of the results of the global stock-taking exercise is presented below. The summary is complemented by an overview of the status of information society statistics in OECD member countries. A final report on the outcome of the survey will be presented in 2005.

A. Africa

11. Twenty-two out of 52 African countries replied to the questionnaire sent by ECA. The survey found that the majority of national statistical offices had no ICT definition. However, there was a demand for household ICT statistics in general, and a high demand for business ICT statistics in countries implementing an e-strategy or having formulated a national information and communication infrastructure (NICI) plan. Existing ICT statistics concern mainly the presence of radio, TV, fixed and mobile telephony in households. Some countries addressed the presence and usage of personal computers and the Internet and collected ICT statistics in business and other areas.

12. Publications on the above-mentioned statistics are issued in the majority of countries, and various financing mechanisms are available to support national statistical offices. However, there is a need for a harmonized methodology and collection of a core set of ICT statistics. In this regard, the SCAN-ICT methodology

was found to be suitable for use by national statistical offices.[1] The proposed list of core ICT indicators for the African region is contained in annex II.

B. Asia and the Pacific

13. Seventeen out of 53 countries in Asia and the Pacific responded to the metadata questionnaire sent by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The survey found that almost half of those countries used a specific ICT definition. Three quarters of the national statistical offices financed the collection of ICT indicators through their regular budget, and a similar percentage of the offices indicated that they produced publications about or containing ICT statistics.

14. Regarding ICT household indicators, 12 of the national statistical offices (70 per cent) responded that the level of demand was high or very high. The most common indicators were the presence of electricity, radio, fixed telephone, mobile phone, television, computers and Internet.

15. Slightly more than half of the national statistical offices indicated a high or very high demand for ICT indicators collected through business surveys. The most common ICT business indicators were the presence of fixed telephone and mobile devices, the presence and number of computers, and Internet access.

C. Central Asia and selected European countries

16. Nineteen out of 24 countries replied to the questionnaire sent by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Slightly more than half of the respondents used a specific ICT definition, whereas three were still developing a definition and six did not use any ICT definition yet. Eleven countries (60 per cent) financed ICT data collection through their regular budget, while two countries benefited mostly from Eurostat cooperation and one benefited from national cooperation. One fourth of the countries indicated that they had not yet identified any sources of financing. Eight national statistical offices (42 per cent) indicated that they actively produced documents and/or publications that included ICT statistics.

17. Regarding ICT household indicators, 18 out of 19 countries have included ICT-related questions in their household surveys. Almost half of the countries responded that the level of demand for this type of statistics was high or very high. The most common indicators were the presence of electricity, radio, fixed telephone, mobile phone, television and computers. The collection of household indicators concerning Internet use was less frequent, and eleven of the national statistical offices (60 per cent) did not plan to measure those indicators in the near future.

18. Twelve out of 19 countries have included ICT indicators in their business sector surveys (63 per cent). Eight countries (42 per cent) reported a high- or medium-level demand for ICT business indicators. Seven national statistical offices (37 per cent) did not indicate any level of demand. The most common ICT business indicators were the presence of fixed telephone and mobile devices, the presence and number of computers and Internet access. Indicators related to electronic commerce were less widely collected. Two national statistical offices planned to develop collections of ICT indicators in business surveys in the next year and three

offices planned to do so in the next three years. In one fourth of the countries, national institutions other than the offices carried out business surveys that included ICT-related questions.

19. Finally, several countries collected ICT statistics in areas other than household and business. One fourth of the respondents collected ICT indicators related to education, four countries (21 per cent) collected indicators related to foreign trade and others collected statistics specifically on the ICT sector. Twelve countries (63 per cent) did not collect ICT indicators in other sectors.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

20. Twenty out of 36 countries replied to the questionnaire sent by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The questionnaire found that six respondents (30 per cent) already used an ICT definition, while three were in the process of developing one. With respect to the sources of financing for the collection of ICT indicators, 14 of the national statistical offices (70 per cent) financed the collection out of their regular budget, and one fourth benefited from national cooperation from other government institutions. Half of the offices had published documents containing ICT statistics.

21. Thirteen of the national statistical offices in the region (65 per cent) reported high- or medium-level demand for ICT household indicators. All countries had included in their household surveys the questions on access to electricity, radio, fixed and mobile telephones, television, computers and the Internet. Six countries have included questions about the use of ICTs in their household surveys, and three intended to do so in the next three years. Three countries have collected indicators related to barriers to Internet use and electronic commerce, while four countries will do so in the next three years.

22. Regarding ICT business indicators, seven countries (35 per cent) reported a high- or medium-level demand. Three countries reported a low demand. The most widely collected indicators were the presence of fixed telephone and mobile devices, the presence and number of computers, and Internet access. One fourth of the countries included questions on Internet sales in their surveys.

23. It should be noted that the regional workshop held in November 2004 recommended the adoption by national statistical offices of a list of core ICT questions for regular surveys (see annex III) and recognized the need to carry out specific thematic ICT surveys for households, businesses and other sectors of the economy, in order to gain a better understanding of the development of the information society in the region.

E. Western Asia

24. Ten of the 13 member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia replied to the metadata questionnaire sent by the Commission. It was found that four of the countries used an ICT definition and that two were in the process of developing one. One country did not use any specific definition, and the remaining did not provide a response to the question.

25. Regarding ICT household statistics, more than half of the national statistical offices indicated a high or medium level of demand for this type of indicator. A similar level of demand was found for ICT business statistics. The most common ICT household indicators were the presence of electricity, radio, fixed telephone, mobile phone, television, computer and Internet.

26. The main ICT business indicators collected were the presence of fixed telephone and mobile devices, the presence and number of computers, the presence of Internet access and the types of services for which the Internet is used. The remaining indicators were either not availa or were expected to be collected in the next three years. The agreed regional list of core ICT indicators is contained in annex IV.

F. Members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

27. Since 1997, the work of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on ICT indicators has mainly been carried out through its Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), resulting in agreed definitions of the ICT sector, ICT goods and e-commerce. Furthermore, model questionnaires have been developed on the use of ICT by businesses and on the use of ICT by households and individuals. Currently, the model questionnaires are under revision. Other work under way includes the development of a definition of ICT services and the measurement of various complex items such as e-business processes, digital content, information technology (IT) security and e-government services. Work on assessing the impacts of ICT has been carried out over the last few years, mainly by the member countries themselves, with the Secretariat trying to consolidate the country-level findings at the international level. That work will be continued and is expected to assume a more important role in years to come.

28. ICT statistical data from OECD member countries are collected annually and published in various publications, most importantly in the OECD *Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard*. The publication combines methodological explanations of the indicators with empirical analyses of the findings.

29. Indicators on the usage of ICT by households and individuals have been collected since 2001, with data available for 17 countries in 2001 and for up to 20 in 2003. The data request for the 2005 edition of the *Scoreboard* asks for data available for all countries of the European Union and some non-European Union OECD countries. The priority indicators that will be collected are the following: households with access to a computer, to the Internet and to broadband; and individuals using the Internet, placing online orders and encountering security problems and other barriers on the Internet. In addition, data will be requested on the location of individual Internet use, on the proportion of employees using the Internet at work, on the proportion of students using the Internet at their place of education and on other activities carried out over the Internet by individuals.

30. Business usage indicators have been collected since 2001 as well, with the country coverage rapidly increasing from 7 countries in 2001 to 21 in 2003. The data request for the 2005 *Scoreboard* will, as a first priority, include businesses using the Internet, having broadband access, having a web site or a home page, having particular IT security measures in place, encountering specific IT security

problems and placing and receiving orders over the Internet. It will also ask for the value of Internet orders and of orders received over other (non-Internet) computer-mediated networks. Additionally, lower-priority data will be requested on business use of computers, use of the Internet for specific businesses processes, use of Internet e-mail, Intranet, Extranet or local area network placement of orders using other (non-Internet) computer-mediated networks, share of Internet sales to households and individuals, orders received using other (non-Internet) computer-mediated networks, and recognition of specific benefits and limitations to Internet use for receiving orders. Data for the preceding indicators is expected to be available for more than 20 countries.

31. Since 2000, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has been collecting data for the ICT sector (employment in the ICT sector, value added generated by the ICT sector, production value of the ICT sector, etc.) from its member countries, with data generally available for most of the 30 OECD member countries. More and more, those data are available from other sources, such as national accounts and structural business surveys, and there may no longer be the need for a separate data collection.

32. The metadata information on ICT statistics for OECD member countries will be included in annex III of a forthcoming guide to information society measurement, to be finalized in the second half of 2005. Countries will be asked to complete the metadata questionnaire by mid-January 2005 and the results of the collection will be available by the end of April 2005. The collected information is expected to be updated annually.

IV. Core information and communication technology indicators

33. One of the main objectives of the Partnership is to define a set of core ICT indicators, which would be agreed upon by all countries and harmonized at the international level. The results of the metadata survey provide important inputs to this exercise, as they help to identify what countries currently consider as basic ICT indicators.

34. Chapter IV presents a set of basic ICT statistical indicators necessary to measure ICT readiness and usage by individuals, households, businesses and schools. The objective of the ongoing discussion at the national, regional and international levels is to agree on a common set of core ICT indicators to be collected by all countries, which would constitute the basis for an internationally comparable database on ICT statistics.

35. The following remarks focus primarily on indicators related to basic ICT access and usage by households, individuals and businesses. The reasons for that focus are that (a) individuals, households and businesses are key players in an information society, and (b) there is an emerging consensus on definitions, guidelines and methodologies regarding individual, household and business ICT indicators, as reflected in various national, regional and international initiatives. For example, OECD and Eurostat have developed model household and business surveys. However, little progress has been made on other ICT-related indicators, such as government or health. The latter will thus be dealt with at a later stage.

A. Basic infrastructure, access and household indicators

36. Indicators on individual and household ICT access, use and ownership have important policy implications, helping Governments to assess the status of ICT infrastructure by geography, population segment, or economic sector, to identify the demand from individuals, assess the gap caused by affordability issues and measure the impact of ICT-related policies at household levels. Basic infrastructure and access indicators are collected annually by the International Telecommunication Union and measured per capita. They are defined and discussed during the World Telecommunication Indicators meeting and are published in the International Telecommunication Union *Telecommunication Indicators Handbook*.

37. Furthermore, indicators of community and public access are particularly relevant for developing and least developed countries, where individual or household access to telephones, personal computers and the Internet is still far from universal. Mobile cellular telephone coverage is another way of measuring access (percentage of the population that is covered by a mobile cellular signal regardless of subscription).

38. Some national statistical offices collect data for household and, particularly, for individual access to ICTs: in 2003, about 50 countries (primarily developed and emerging nations) carried out individual Internet user surveys. The OECD and Eurostat regularly publish data and definitions for indicators on household and individual use. However, reliable information about ICT use in developing nations and in the least developed countries in particular is scarce.

39. Access to radio and television broadcasting in developing countries is predominant and far higher than access to other information and communication technologies. Therefore, it is important to compile indicators on access to broadcast networks (see annex I). Other key indicators include access to telephone service (both fixed and mobile lines), to personal computers and to the Internet. Indicators on access to personal computers should include the proportion of households with a computer and the number of people in the household who use a computer (this could give an indication of basic computer skills).

40. Furthermore, indicators of access to the Internet are the basis of discussions on the digital divide, including the proportion of households with Internet access and the number of individuals that use the Internet. The latter indicators can be disaggregated further: by age, by frequency of use, by type of access devices used, by location of use and by purpose of Internet use. However, to ensure comparability of data, there should be an agreement on the definition of user age (for example, by showing Internet use from a common starting age and with uniform age cohorts),[2] of frequency of use (within the last year, within the last three months, monthly, weekly or daily) and of type of access device (computer, Internet-enabled mobile phone, Internet-enabled TV sets, etc.).

41. With regard to the disaggregation of Internet access data according to location of use, the vast majority of households in developing countries do not have personal computers or Internet access, and many users rely on other points of access (e.g. other households, work, school, library, Internet cafés). Therefore, indicators that show the location of use of the Internet have also been proposed to capture public access. Similarly, data should be disaggregated according to the purpose of

Internet use (e.g. communication, information search, electronic commerce, interaction with public authorities, training and education, health purposes).

42. Data on ICT use can be cross-correlated with other data collected, such as income, gender, education and other demographic characteristics of the respondent, to enhance the analysis of national digital divides. Furthermore, electricity is a large barrier to ICT development in a number of developing nations, since the lack of a suitable energy source has an impact on the ability to use ICTs. In that regard, an associated household indicator on access to electricity could be useful when collecting data on ICTs.[3]

B. Enterprises/information and communication technology sector

43. Statistics on the access to and use of ICTs by businesses and on the ICT sector are important for a number of reasons. Firstly, the statistics allow policy makers to monitor information society developments and participate effectively in related international debates, such as in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society, or of World Trade Organization negotiations. ICT statistics enable researchers to analyse ICT developments and to inform policy makers about trends and, most importantly, about the impact of ICTs on economic and social development. Finally, business people require reliable data upon which to base investment and strategic decisions. Statistics on the use of ICTs by businesses (a) show the usage by firm characteristics; (b) facilitate analysis of the linkage between ICT and firm productivity and competitiveness; and (c) explain why some businesses do not use ICT so policy makers can take actions accordingly to promote demand for ICT applications.

44. Official ICT business data is readily available in developed countries, but it is still scarce in developing countries.[4] Although some developing countries are collecting official ICT business data as part of business surveys (see chap. III), few have specific surveys on the access to and use of ICT by businesses. For example, most statistical data on e-commerce are available from private providers; definitions and methodologies differ and the data are thus not comparable. Collection is often performed on an ad hoc basis, and estimates and forecasts can be unreliable. Furthermore, other ICT business indicators, including those on e-business usage, barriers and impact, are practically non-existent.

45. ICT business indicators should measure general access and usage of ICT (for example, number of businesses with computers, Internet access), e-commerce (online sales and purchases), and e-business processes (for example, the automation of customer care, finance, logistics or order tracking). Core ICT business indicators should be basic, business-relevant and policy-relevant, and it should be feasible for national statistical offices from developing countries to collect them. Therefore, the proposed list of core ICT business indicators includes a number of ICT readiness indicators (such as the use of personal computers and the Internet and by how many employees and the presence of a web site, an Intranet or an Extranet), and at least two indicators on usage (online sales and purchases).

46. Indicators related to the ICT sector, which is defined by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), Rev. 3, can be considered separately from other business indicators (see annexes I, II and IV). ICT sector data is of importance in determining the relevance of the sector to national ICT policies as well as the

contribution and impact of the sector to the economy. In some developing countries, notably those in which the ICT sector has become a strategic component of economic development (for example, Costa Rica, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore), such data is paramount.

47. Core indicators on the ICT sector (see annexes II and IV) refer to the sector's value to international trade and to value added, and to the relevance of the ICT sector to employment, disaggregated by gender. For national statistical offices in developing countries, it should be feasible to collect such data through industry-specific surveys or from governmental administrative sources (private sources are not recommended). In addition to those sources, OECD proposes core indicators on the production value of the ICT sector, on trade and on ICT patents. For most countries in the world, trade and patent data are available from existing databases (see annex I).

C. Education

48. ICT indicators related to education can help to assess certain aspects of universal access to education at all levels as well as of the use of ICTs to achieve some of the international goals on education and development.[5] High-quality, cross-national data and indicators on ICT in education will also help to monitor the progress towards achieving such goals. Data on ICT in schools can help policy makers take informed policy decisions on investing in ICT for education or implementing measures to improve learning outcomes through the use of ICT.

49. There exist a number of internationally sponsored and periodically administered surveys, each of which collect some limited information on ICTs within schools and provide a preliminary overview of the situation for many countries.[6] In addition, in 2005, the UIS plans to embed ICT-related questions in its annual education surveys (on infrastructure and availability), as well as within a new household survey project on literacy (on usage within schools and perceived benefits and impacts).[7] However, there is a paucity of systematically collected data on the availability, access, use and impact of ICT in education at the national level. Although many countries do not conduct dedicated national school surveys, most national ministries of education or national statistical offices do collect some basic administrative data related to infrastructure and availability of ICTs within schools from which a core set of indicators can be built and analysed.

50. The ongoing international debate on ICT indicators has identified specific core indicators related to education (see annexes II and IV) and has addressed the question of ICT use for educational purposes in household surveys (see annexes I and III). Core indicators should measure the student-to-computer ratio in primary and secondary schools, the proportion of schools having Internet access for students, or the proportion of students enrolled in tertiary education in an ICT field. Further ICT indicators related to education could be a part of supplementary indicators to be collected at another level.

V. Supplementary indicators

51. Apart from a limited list of core ICT indicators, some countries, notably those more advanced in the collection of ICT indicators, may want to collect additional statistical indicators related to measuring the information society. In the area of household surveys, those indicators could cover the barriers to Internet access, the frequency of use or the value of Internet purchases by individuals. In the area of business surveys, they could cover questions related to ICT investments, specific e-business processes, or barriers to ICT usage. Supplementary indicators could also extend to other sectors covering such areas as Government, financial institutions and the health sector.

VI. Conclusion and way forward

52. The present paper has provided a brief overview of progress made internationally with respect to the collection of ICT statistical indicators, in particular in developing countries. It has also presented the efforts currently under way in the international community to harmonize those efforts and agree on a common set of core ICT indicators as a basis for developing internationally comparable ICT statistics. The work carried out by different international organizations, brought together under the framework of the global Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development, will continue during the course of 2005. The outcomes of the global stock-taking exercise will be consolidated at the global World Summit on the Information Society Thematic Meeting on Measuring the Information Society, to be held at Geneva from 7 to 9 February 2005. The meeting will identify priority areas for action and will agree on a final list of core ICT indicators, taking into consideration the discussions on core indicators that took place at the regional level. The outcome of the meeting and the results of Partnership activities to date will be brought to the attention of policy makers attending the second phase of the Summit in Tunis (November 2005) and of the thirty-seventh session of the Statistics Commission in 2006.

Notes

[1] SCAN-ICT is an initiative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Acacia initiative, the European Union and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). It aims to build support for the phased development of a comprehensive African capability to collect and manage key information needed to support the growing investment in ICT as well as the transition of Africa to an information society. Additional information is available from, http://www.uneca.org/aisi/scanict.htm.

[2] For example the United States data shows data in five age groups (3-8, 9-17, 18-24, 25-49 and 50+), Republic of Korea data shows data broken down by 6-19, 20s, 30s, 40s and 50 and over while European data is broken down into four groupings: 15-24, 25-39, 40-54 and 55+.

[3] Data from developing countries suggest that while radio ownership is roughly equally distributed between rural and urban areas, there is a significant gap for television, mainly attributable to the more limited availability of electricity in rural areas: "Lack of access to electrical energy in rural areas deprives communities ... of ... television, which are essential ways of disseminating information on general development concerns". "Recharging batteries Zimbabwe", *Sharing Innovative Experiences: Examples of Successful Uses of Renewable Energy Sources in the South*, vol. 8. Available from http://tcdc.undp.org/experiences/vol8/Zimbabwe.pdf.

[4] In 2004, UNCTAD, as part of its preparation for the annual e-commerce and development report, started to collect indicators on ICT usage by enterprises from a number of developing countries.

[5] The UNESCO Education for All goals, the Millennium Development Goals and the indicative goals of the World Summit on the Information Society Plan of Action.

[6] Such as the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Trends in Mathematics and Science Achievement Around the World Study (TIMMS) of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), the IEA Progress in International Literacy Study (PIRLS), the South Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ) and the Laboratorio Latinoamericano de Evaluación de la Calidad de la Educación (LLECE).

[7] The Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP).

Annex I

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: proposed list of core information and communication technology indicators

Core ICT indicators

Readiness indicator: infrastructure	
Indicators	**Indicators available in the ITU database (available for many countries)** • Main fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants • Total telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants • Cellular phone subscribers per 100 inhabitants • Number of personal computers per 100 inhabitants • Number of Internet users per 100 inhabitants • Residential monthly telephone subscription cost • Cellular monthly subscription cost • Business telephone monthly subscription cost **Indicator available through the Internet Software Consortium (ISC) (available for many countries)** • Number of Internet hosts **Other indicators (to be collected from national sources or private sources)** • Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants • Web sites per 1 000 inhabitants • Internet access costs
Sources	• National telecommunication authorities (data collected by ITU) • ISP surveys • Surveys of telecom carriers • Private sources (e.g. netsizer, netcraft)
Readiness indicator: trade	
Variables	• Value of imports and exports of ICT goods • Value of total imports and exports
Indicators	• ICT sector trade balance (defined by the OECD as ICT exports minus ICT imports divided by total manufacturing trade (the average of exports and imports)) • Growth rate of ICT imports • Growth rate of ICT exports • ICT imports as a percentage of total imports • ICT exports as a percentage of total exports
Classification	Harmonized System (HS), Rev.1
Sources	Trade databases, such as the COMTRADE database
Readiness indicator: qualifications	
Indicators	• Proportion of population with completed secondary education • Proportion of population with completed tertiary education • Enrolment ratios in primary, secondary and tertiary education

	☐ Proportion of enrolments in higher education in an ICT field of study (as a percentage of total number of enrolments and as a percentage of the corresponding age group) ☐ Proportion of graduates in higher education in an ICT field of study (as a percentage of total number of graduates and as a percentage of the corresponding age group)
Classification	ISCED 97; ICT field of study is ISCED field 48: Computing
Sources	☐ UNESCO ☐ National education statistics

ICT supply and use indicators: the information and communication technology sector

Variables	☐ Production value ☐ Value added ☐ Employment
Indicators	☐ Contribution of value added in the ICT sector to total business sector value added ☐ Growth of value added in the ICT sector ☐ Contribution of employment in the ICT sector to total business sector employment ☐ Growth of employment in the ICT sector ☐ Contribution of production value in the ICT sector to total business sector production value ☐ Growth of production value in the ICT sector
Classification	ISIC, Rev. 3; if possible data broken down by: – ICT manufacturing – ICT services – Total manufacturing – Total services – Total business sector
Sources	☐ Business survey data (detailed enough to allow for measurement of the ICT sector, see annex for details) ☐ Administrative sources ☐ Private sources (not recommended)

ICT supply and use indicators: Households' and individuals' readiness and use of information and communication technologies

Indicators	☐ Proportion of households with access to a home computer (percentage of total) ☐ Proportion of households with access to the Internet (percentage of total) ☐ Proportion of individuals (aged 16 years or over) accessing the Internet from the following locations: – Home – Work – Place of education – Internet café or similar – Other ☐ Proportion of individuals (aged 16 years or over) using the Internet for the following activities: – Using e-mail/chat rooms – Finding information about goods and services – Getting information from/interacting with Government – Finding health-related information – Reading/downloading online newspapers/news magazines – Playing/downloading games, music, software – Using banking or other financial services

	– Purchasing/ordering goods or services – Educational activities – Other
Classification	☐ Households broken down by composition (couple, couple with children, one-parent family, other family, lone person, other non-family) ☐ Individuals broken down by gender ☐ Individuals broken down by age-group (16-24, 25-44, 45-64, 65-74) ☐ Individuals broken down by highest education received (primary, secondary, post-secondary (not tertiary), tertiary)
Sources	☐ General population surveys ☐ Specific ICT surveys ☐ Private sources
ICT supply and use indicators: business readiness and use of information and communication technologies	
Indicators	☐ Proportion of businesses with personal computers (percentage of total) ☐ Proportion of employees using personal computers (percentage of total) ☐ Proportion of businesses with Internet access (percentage of total) ☐ Proportion of businesses accessing the Internet by the following modes of access: – Analogue modem – Mobile phone – ISDN – Wi-Fi – DSL – Other ☐ Proportion of employees using the Internet (percentage of total) ☐ Proportion of businesses with a web site (percentage of total) ☐ Proportion of businesses receiving orders over the Internet (percentage of total) ☐ Value of orders received over the Internet (percentage of annual revenue) ☐ Proportion of businesses placing orders over the Internet (percentage of total)
Classification	☐ Enterprises broken down by activity/industry (at the two-digit level of ISIC, Rev. 3) ☐ Enterprises broken down by size class (size classes: 0, 1-9, 10-49, 50-249, 250+ employees)
Sources	☐ General business surveys ☐ Special ICT use and/or e-commerce surveys ☐ Private sources
ICT supply and use indicators: patents	
Variables	☐ Number of ICT patents ☐ Total number of patents
Indicators	☐ ICT patents as a percentage of total patents ☐ ICT patents as a percentage of world total of ICT patents ☐ Growth of ICT patents
Classification	International Patent Classification (IPC)
Sources	EPO, USPTO, JPO, other (national) patent offices using the IPC

Source: Martin Schaaper, "A proposal for a core list of indicators for ICT measurement", available from http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/3/3/22453185.pdf (Paris, OECD, n.d.).

Abbreviations: COMTRADE = United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database; DSL = digital subscriber line; EPO = European Patent Office; ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education; ISP = Internet service provider; JPO = Japan Patent Office; OECD = Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; ISDN = integrated services digital network; ISIC = International Standard Industrial Classification; ITU = International Telecommunication Union; UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; USPTO = United States Patent and Trademark Office; Wi-Fi = wireless fidelity (wireless local area network).

Annex II

Africa: list of core information and communication technology indicators[a]

Indicators

Basic infrastructure and access

1. Main telephone lines per 100 inhabitants
2. Mobile cellular telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants
3. Radio per 100 inhabitants
4. Television sets per 100 inhabitants
5. Number of personal computers per 100 inhabitants
6. Number of Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants
7. Percentage of localities with public Internet access centres by number of inhabitants (rural/urban)
8. Percentage of population with access to public Internet access centres by type of centre (governmental/private)
9. Percentage of population covered by mobile telephony

ICT sector

10. Percentage of total workforce involved in ICT sector (by gender)
11. ICT imports and exports as percentage of total imports and exports
12. Value added in the ICT sector (as a percentage of total value added)

Households

13. Percentage of households with a radio
14. Percentage of households with a television
15. Percentage of households with a telephone (fixed only, mobile only, fixed and mobile)
16. Percentage of households with a personal computer
17. Percentage of households with Internet access (from the home)

Individuals (by age, gender, including the disabled)

18. Percentage of population that use a computer
19. Percentage of population with access to the Internet (by type of access, purpose, location of use)

[a] Economic Commission for Africa, regional workshop on ICT indicators, Gaborone, 26-29 October 2004.

Business

20. **Percentage of businesses with computers**
21. **Percentage of businesses with Internet access**
22. **Percentage of businesses with a web site**
23. **Percentage of employees using personal computers**
24. **Percentage of employees using the Internet**
25. **Percentage of businesses receiving orders over Internet**
26. **Percentage of businesses placing orders over Internet**
27. **Percentage of businesses with an Intranet**
28. **Value of orders received over the Internet (as a percentage of total value of orders)**

Education

29. **Percentage of students enrolled in tertiary education having Internet access for students for study purposes**
30. **Enrolled student-to-personal-computer ratio (in primary and secondary schools and in tertiary education)**
31. **Percentage of students enrolled in tertiary education in an ICT field or an ICT-dominated field (of the total number of students) (by gender)**
32. **Percentage of ICT-qualified teachers in primary and secondary schools (of the total number of teachers)**
33. **Percentage of tertiary education institutions with e-learning courses (of the total number of tertiary education institutions)**
34. **For what purpose do students/teachers use computers/Internet (e.g., percentage for e-mail, research, employment opportunities, application software)**

Government

35. **Ratio of availability of personal computers to number of staff**
36. **Percentage of government offices with Internet access**
37. **Percentage of government offices and agencies with a web site**
38. **Percentage of government employees with Internet access from the office**
39. **Percentage of government workers that use information and communication technologies**
40. **Purpose of use: (percentage) for e-mail, research, database work, geomatics, application software, etc.**

Agriculture

41. **Percentage of agricultural population and extension workers involved in the exploitation and deployment of ICTs to the sector**

42. **Typology of usage of ICTs in the agricultural sector (e.g., percentage in research and development, business, weather, prices)**

43. **Number of local web sites and databases with agricultural information and content**

Health

44. **Percentage of health institutions using ICTs (by type of health institution: e.g., private clinic, Government, university hospital, pharmacy)**

45. **Geographic distribution of health institutions with computers, telephone and Internet connectivity**

46. **Percentage of health professionals that use ICTs for medical purposes**

47. **Purpose of usage and percentage in telemedicine, e-mail, research (health information), continuing medical education or distance learning, health promotion (including health information systems), database, software applications, etc.**

48. **Percentage of local web sites and databases with medical information**

Annex III

Latin America and the Caribbean: list of core information and communication technology questions

Eight core questions for regular household surveys		*Response options*	*Criteria*		
			International reference	*Latin America and Caribbean reference*	*Observed unit*
H-1	Does this household have a fixed line telephone?	Yes No	C, E, O	ALL (20)	Household
H-2a	Does this household have a mobile telephone?	Yes No	A, C, O	19	Household
H-2b	How many members of the household have access to a mobile phone?	Number	-	-	Household
H-3	Does this household have television?	Yes No	-	19	Household
H-4	Does this household have a computer (PC)?	Yes No	A, C, O, *ES*	ALL (20)	Household
H-5	Does this household have Internet access at home?	Yes No	A, C, E, O, *ES*	ALL (20)	Household
H-6	Where did you use the Internet most frequently in the last three months? *(tick all that apply)*	Did not access At home At work Educational facility Free public access centre (specific denomination depends on national practices) Commercial public access centre (specific denomination depends on national practices) House of friend or neighbour Others	C, E, O, *ES*	Bb, Cl, Co, Cr, Mx, TT	Individual(s) of the household[a]
H-7a	How often did you usually access the Internet in the last three months? *(tick one)*	At least once a day At least once a week, but not every day At least once a month, but not every week Less than once a month Do not know	C, E, O, *ES*	Bb, Co, Mx, TT	Individual(s) of the household that use the Internet[a]

H-7b	How many hours did you usually access the Internet weekly over the last three months?	Number of hours per week Do not know	-	-	Individual(s) of the household that use the Internet[a]
H-8	For what services/activities did you use the Internet in the last three months? *(tick all that apply)*	Communication (e-mail, chat) Information search Purchasing/ordering goods or services Health-related activities Education, research and related activities Transactions with public authorities Using electronic banking or other financial services Reading/downloading online newspapers/news magazines Playing/downloading games, music, software Other	A, C, E, O, *ES*	Bb, Cl, Co, Cr, Mx, TT	Individual(s) of the household that use the Internet[a]

	Five core questions for regular business surveys	*Response options*	*Criteria*		
			International reference	*Latin America and Caribbean reference*	*Observed unit*
B-1	How many computers does the enterprise have?	None Number Do not know	C	Cl, Co, Pe, TT	Enterprise
B-2	Does the enterprise use one of the following networks? *(tick all that apply)*	Internet Intranet Extranet LAN WAN	A, C, E, O, *ES*	Ar, Bb, Br, Bz, Cl, Co, Cr, Mx, Pa, Pe, S, TT, Uy	Enterprise
B-3	Does the enterprise have a web site?	Yes No Under construction	A, C, E, O, *ES*	Ar, Bb, Br, Cl, Co, Mx, Pe, TT, Uy	Enterprise

B-4	What is the share of the total number of employees using a computer connected to the Internet in their normal work routine?	Percentage of total employees Do not know	C, E, O, *ES*	Ar, Cl, Co, TT, Uy	Enterprise with Internet access
B-5	What services/activities does the enterprise use the Internet for [external focus]? *(tick all that apply)*	Communication (e-mail, chat) Information search Placing orders Receiving orders Financial and banking services Transactions with public authorities Marketing or client support Education, research or training Other	C, E, O, *ES*	Cl, Co, Pe, TT	Enterprise with Internet access

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Workshop on Information Society Measurement for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, 3-4 November 2004.

Notes:

Abbreviations: LAN = local area network; PC = personal computer; WAN = wide area network.

References: International and Latin America and the Caribbean

A Australian Bureau of Statistics

E European Commission

ES Eurostat ICT households/enterprises 2005

ES Eurostat ICT households/enterprises 2005, informal version

O Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

C Statistics Canada

Ar Argentina

Bb Barbados

Bo Bolivia

Br Brazil

Bz Belize

Cl Chile

Co Colombia

Cr Costa Rica

DR Dominican Republic

Ec Ecuador

J Jamaica

Mx **Mexico**

Pa **Paraguay**

Pe **Peru**

Sk **Saint Kitts and Nevis**

Vc **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

S **System of ICT indicators Strengthening the Information Technology Infrastructure and Competence of the CARICOM Secretariat (SITIC) initiative**

Sv **Salvador (El)**

TT **Trinidad and Tobago**

Uy **Uruguay**

Ve **Venezuela**

[a] **Regarding methodological implementation, the method of selecting the individual(s) in the household needs to be considered.**

Annex IV

Western Asia: list of core information and communication technology indicators

	Core indicators	*Available*	*Possible sources*
Readiness			
Basic infrastructure and access			
1	Main fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants	ITU	
2	Mobile telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants	ITU	
3	Residential fixed line telephone monthly subscription costs	ITU	
4	Local fixed line call costs for three minutes	ITU	
5	Business telephone monthly subscription costs	ITU	
6	Mobile telephone subscription costs	ITU	
7	Local mobile call costs for three minutes	ITU	
8	Televisions per 100 inhabitants	ITU/UIS	
9	Number of PCs per 100 inhabitants	ITU	
10	Internet hosts per 10,000 inhabitants	ITU/ISC	
11	Number of Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants		ISP surveys
12	International bandwidth per capita	ITU	
13	Broadband Internet subscribers per 1,000 inhabitants	ITU	
ICT sector			
14	Percentage of total workforce involved in ICT sector (broken down by gender)		Business surveys
15	ICT imports and exports as percentage of total imports and exports	Trade databases (COMTRADE)	
16	Value added in the ICT sector (as a percentage of total value added)		Business surveys
Intensity (usage)			
Household			
17	Household Internet access cost per month	ITU	
18	Percentage of households with Internet access		Household surveys/ census

	Core indicators	Available	Possible sources
19	Households with a PC		Household surveys/ census
20	Individuals accessing the Internet by primary access point (broken down by age and gender)		Household surveys/ census
21	Individuals using the Internet by activity		Household surveys/ census
Business			
22	Percentage of businesses with personal computers		Business surveys
23	Percentage of businesses with Internet access		Business surveys
24	Percentage of businesses with a web site		Business surveys
25	Percentage of employees using personal computers		Business surveys
26	Percentage of employees using the Internet		Business surveys
27	Percentage of businesses receiving orders over Internet		Business surveys
28	Percentage of businesses placing orders over the Internet		Business surveys
29	Percentage of businesses with an Intranet		Business surveys
30	Value of orders received over the Internet (as a percentage of total value of orders)		Business surveys
Education			
31	Enrolled student-to-PC ratio in primary and secondary schools		ministry of education
32	Percentage of primary and secondary schools having Internet access for students for study purposes		ministry of education
33	Percentage of students enrolled in tertiary education in an ICT field or an ICT-dominated field (of the total number of students) (broken down by gender)	UIS database	ministry of higher education
34	Percentage of ICT-qualified teachers in primary and secondary schools (of the total number of teachers)		ministry of education
35	Percentage of tertiary education institutions with e-learning courses (of the total number of tertiary education institutions)		ministry of higher education

Source: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Roundtable on Information Society Indicators and Profiles in Western Asia, Beirut, 4-5 October 2004.

Abbreviations: COMTRADE = United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database; ISP = Internet service provider; ITU = International Telecommunication Union; UIS = UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

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Item 7 (g) of the provisional agenda*
Activities not classified by field: coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on its third and fourth meetings

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, chaired by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on its third (New York, 1 March 2004) and fourth (New York, 1-3 September 2004) meetings. The report is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fifth session.[a] The report is presented for information. The Commission may wish to take into account in its discussion under relevant agenda items the views expressed by the Committee. A list of the relevant agenda items and paragraphs of the present report follows:

Agenda item	*Title*	*Relevant paragraph(s)*
5 (b)	Health statistics	7 (I), 16 (II)
7 (c)	Indicators for follow-up to United Nations conferences	5 (I), 7-10 (II)
7 (d)	Presentation of statistical data and metadata	14 (II)
7 (e)	Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata	19 (II)
7 (f)	Information and communication technologies statistics	8 (I), 12 (II)

Note: I = report on the third meeting.
II = report on the fourth meeting.

* E/CN.3/2005/1.

[a] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 4* (E/2004/24), chap. I.A.

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Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on its third and fourth meetings

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Part One

Report of the third meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (New York, 1 March 2004)

I. Introduction

1. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities held its third meeting in New York on 1 March 2004. The meeting was chaired by Andrew Flatt, Director of the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

II. Work of the meeting

A. Adoption of the agenda

2. The Committee adopted the agenda.

B. Harmonization of the base year for index numbers

3. Several members of the Committee provided oral updates on their current efforts to implement the Committee recommendation to rebase all index numbers using 2000 as base year and to complete the process by the end of 2005. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) volunteered to send out a questionnaire in June 2004 to request from all Committee members information on the status of the rebasing of indices and to report to the Committee at its September meeting.

C. Draft declaration of principles for statistical activities in international organizations

4. The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provided an oral update on the status of the draft declaration of principles for statistical activities in international organizations. A first draft had been circulated to the drafting group in November 2003. Extensive comments had been received. The main discussion in the drafting group currently focused on the degree of detail to be included and on whether a two-tier approach (for users and for statisticians) should be taken. The Division will circulate a revised version to the drafting group. The objective is to present a text for final amendments and adoption at the September meeting of the Committee.

D. Strategic issues related to Millennium Development Goal indicators

5. The Division presented the Committee with an oral update on its work towards the preparation of the reports on the Millennium Development Goals in 2004 and 2005.[1] The Division also briefed the Committee on the Marrakech Action Plan for

improving development statistics. Some members of the Committee recalled that as a consequence of the Committee's discussion of the Tim Holt report[2] in September 2003, a number of strategic issues had been identified, such as the frequency of producing data, the corresponding development of data sources (surveys and administrative sources) and resource allocation between national and international reporting.[3] The Committee asked the Division to prepare a written report for its next session, listing those and other strategic issues related to Millennium Development Goal indicators, and identifying whether and to what extent the issues had been addressed either by the inter-agency and expert group on Millennium Development Goal indicators and/or by the Marrakech Action Plan. The objective of the report is to facilitate discussion by the Committee at its next session, which would critically assess how the work of the international organizations in supporting countries to produce data needed for the Millennium Development Goal indicators could be improved. In that context the Committee took note of the offer of the possibility that the World Bank might finance further work by Tim Holt and invited the Division and the World Bank to cooperate on the formulation of terms of reference. The Committee also agreed that it was important to stay informed on the activities of the Millennium Project, in particular with respect to their use of data.

E. Q2004 satellite conference on data quality

6. The Division briefed the Committee on the call for papers, which had been sent to Committee members, for the planned satellite conference on data quality for international organizations in Germany from 27 to 28 May. Some Committee members recalled that one of the objectives of the conference was to share existing practices. The Committee welcomed the intention of various organizations to contribute papers. The deadline for submission of brief outlines of proposed papers was set for 20 March 2004, with papers due by the end of April.

F. World Health Organization Friends of the Chair report to the Statistical Commission and its implications for the Committee

7. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) briefed the Committee on recent activities of WHO, including the establishment of the Health Metrics Network. WHO emphasized its commitment to cooperation with the Statistical Commission as well as with partner agencies through the Committee. The representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) stressed in particular the importance of cooperation at the regional level and highlighted the development of a health indicator framework for Latin America and the work on classifications. The Committee welcomed the progress made in improving cooperation at both the global and regional levels.

G. Other business

8. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development briefed the Committee on recent cooperative activities with various organizations, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the regional commissions, to

develop a core list of information and communication technology (ICT) indicators and to assist countries in improving their capacities to develop statistics related to information and communication technologies. The Committee accepted the UNCTAD proposal to add the issue to the agenda of its next meeting and welcomed the UNCTAD offer to prepare a paper.

9. The Committee took note of the discussion between OECD and the World Tourism Organization on appropriate mechanisms of cooperation in the area of tourism statistics. The Chair invited both organizations to present a joint note for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee, which should identify the issues of concern and contain proposals for effective cooperation and division of labour among the organizations involved.

10. The Committee took note of the current review by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) of existing cooperation arrangements and of its invitation to other agencies to provide appropriate inputs, including suggestions for new areas of cooperation.

11. The Committee also took note of the new work programme of the statistics unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In that regard, the Committee welcomed further involvement by statisticians from specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations not currently active in the Committee.

12. The Committee noted the offer of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to hold a future Committee meeting in Montreal.

H. Agenda, dates and venue for the fourth meeting of the Committee in September 2004

13. The Committee decided to hold its fourth meeting in New York from 1-3 September 2004. It also agreed with the proposal to make the discussion of the draft declaration of principles for statistical activities in international organizations its main theme. In addition to the topics included in the preliminary agenda (SA/2004/2), the Committee agreed to include in its agenda "ICT indicators" (UNCTAD), "Tourism statistics" (World Tourism Organization, OECD), "Data/metadata presentation" (OECD), "Standards for statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX)" (OECD), "Revision policies" (International Monetary Fund) and "Long time series" (OECD). The Committee also took note of the offer of PAHO and UNESCO to contribute to proposed agenda item 5, "Statistics at the subnational level". The Committee reiterated its request that authors should provide annotations for the various agenda items, so that a clear distinction could be made between agenda items that were for decision, such as the adoption of guidelines or best practices, agenda items that were for discussion and agenda items that primarily served the purpose of information exchange between agencies. The Committee asked the Secretariat to circulate a revised agenda for the fourth meeting of the Committee, to request annotations, and to follow up on preparations for the fourth session vigorously. The deadline for the submission of documents was set at mid-July.

Notes

[1] See also "Indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals" (E/CN.3/2004/23).

[2] Tim Holt, "Aggregation of national data to regional and global estimates" (SA/2003/8).

[3] See also "Report of the 2nd meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (Geneva, 8-10 September 2003)", (SA/2003/19), para. 9.

Part Two

Report of the fourth meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (New York, 1-3 September 2004)

I. Introduction

1. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities held its fourth meeting in New York on 1-3 September 2004. The meeting was chaired by Andrew Flatt, Director of the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

II. Work of the meeting

A. Adoption of the report of the third meeting and of the agenda of the fourth meeting

2. The Committee adopted the report of its third meeting of 1 March 2004 in New York. It also adopted the agenda for the fourth meeting.

B. Draft declaration of principles for statistical activities in international organizations

3. The Committee commended the work of the drafting group under the leadership of Willem de Vries (United Nations Statistics Division). The Committee made several specific editorial suggestions and requested the drafting group to take them into account when preparing a revised version. The Committee agreed that it was useful to make a clear distinction between the principles and practices; the principles should govern all statistical activities of international organizations.

4. The members of the Committee agreed with the proposal to seek endorsement of the declaration of principles from the Statistical Commission, preferably at the March 2005 session. The drafting group was, therefore, encouraged to present a revised draft within the next two weeks and circulate it to committee members for a final round of comments by the end of October. Based on the comments received, the drafting group was asked to prepare a final version by November. Provided that there was sufficient consensus among the members of the Committee, the text would be submitted as an official document to the Statistical Commission. The Committee also noted that, owing to legal and institutional complexities, it might be very difficult for some organizations to give the principles formal institutional support, even though the principles might be supported at the professional statistical level in the organizations. It was hoped that ultimately member countries would recognize the declaration of principles as a tool to demand accountability from international organizations and would, therefore, strongly encourage international organizations to implement the principles. In that context it was also mentioned that it might be helpful if the Committee submitted the text to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

C. Follow-up to the Q2004 satellite conference on data quality

5. The Committee members expressed satisfaction at the successful Conference on data quality for international organizations. It was the first substantive event held by the Committee, and was organized immediately following the European Conference on Quality and Methodology in Official Statistics (Q2004) in Germany in May 2004. It was suggested that the Committee should use similar future occasions for further substantive debate.

6. The Committee members agreed that further work on quality management in international organizations and on related governance issues of the international statistical system was needed. In that context it welcomed the document prepared by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as an excellent basis for further discussion. The Committee set up a working group (consisting of the OECD as the convener, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Europe, UNESCO, Eurostat, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Statistics Division) to develop a paper defining the issues as well as the next steps, to be presented to the Committee at its meeting in March 2005. It was also decided to use the introductory note to the declaration of principles to keep the Statistical Commission informed of the ongoing work of the Committee.

D. Strategic issues related to Millennium Development Goal indicators

7. The Committee raised several issues on which it felt further clarification was needed from the Statistics Division and the inter-agency expert group on Millennium Development Goal indicators. Those were the rationale and technical appropriateness of annual reporting; the means of ensuring greater use and visibility of agency inputs to the international reporting process; and the objectives of the inter-agency group's subgroups, particularly their role in recommending changes in the list of Millennium Development Goal indicators and their specifications. The Committee agreed that the Division should include this information in a report to the Committee on Millennium Development Goal indicators at its next session, following further consultations with the inter-agency expert group.

8. The Committee strongly agreed that documentation and accountability were critical to the credibility of Millennium Development Goal indicators compiled through the inter-agency expert group for international reporting. It recognized the considerable value of the technical study and suggestions prepared by Tim Holt as consultant to the International Labour Organization as a framework for compiling information on and eventually for improving international practices in preparing regional estimates for international use. However, it expressed concern about the magnitude of work that would be required of agencies to complete the questionnaire on estimates and aggregates, and of the work that would be required to prepare a final report and recommendations. In that connection it noted the considerable burdens on agencies in the inter-agency expert group to meet the requirements set by the General Assembly for reporting in 2005 for a five-year follow-up to the Millennium Summit. It agreed that the agencies responsible for compilation of Millennium Development Goal indicators should be invited to comment on the current draft of the questionnaire in relation to methodological practices being implemented by the agencies. The Committee noted that the agencies need to be

transparent in their methodological practices and be prepared to address queries from countries on Millennium Development Goal indicators.

9. The Committee made the observation that the Millennium Development Goal project had brought inter-agency coordination to a high level. The project had also raised agencies awareness of data problems and methodological practices. The Committee asked the United Nations Statistics Division to prepare a paper in 2006 on lessons learned on inter-agency coordination and quality assurance practices.

10. The Committee also received a briefing on DevInfo software, a United Nations tool to monitor progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, it asked the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to write and widely disseminate a newsletter to inform United Nations country teams of the latest developments and of the introduction of the DevInfo software. In addition, it was recommended that a joint guidance note be prepared outlining the complementarity between DevInfo and other existing tools, such as the World Bank's Live Database (LDB), and describing their comparative advantages.

E. Statistics at the subnational level

11. The Committee welcomed the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on its work to develop statistics at the subnational level. It also took note of information provided by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on its ongoing work on the publication *World Urbanization Prospects*. The Committee agreed that, despite the primary mandate of statistical units in international organizations to produce data at the national level, it would be desirable to keep the issue of statistics at the subnational level under review. It also noted that more training would be required for countries to strengthen their production of subnational data.

F. Information and communication technology indicators

12. The Committee was briefed on the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as the coordination mechanism put in place by agencies and regional commissions in the area of ICT measurement and took note of the major activities planned, including regional meetings, preparation of training courses, an ICT measurement guidebook and a common ICT statistics database. Committee members observed that the location of the planned database should be considered carefully in the light of the different dissemination policies of international agencies and that SDMX standards should be used for such a database. Furthermore, the International Labour Organization invited the Partnership to contribute to the ongoing work on the classification of occupational groups in order to better identify the ICT sector. The Division agreed to participate in the Partnership. The Committee noted that the Partnership would prepare an updated report for the 2005 session of the Statistical Commission.

G. Tourism statistics

13. The Committee welcomed the Division's proposal to form an inter-agency coordination group on tourism statistics and encouraged all concerned stakeholders to participate in the first meeting, immediately following the fourth meeting of the Committee. It invited the group to define the scope of its work and its working mechanisms and to report back to the March 2005 meeting of the Committee.

H. Presentation of data and metadata

14. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the extensive work done by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the preparation of the draft data and metadata reporting and presentation handbook and encouraged OECD to go ahead with the publication of the handbook as soon as possible. It acknowledged the invitation to all agencies to provide a last round of comments at the present stage, and several Committee members committed to do so. It was observed that the handbook would not only reflect a commitment by international organizations, but would also constitute a useful reference source for developing countries. In that context it was suggested that, at that moment, feedback on the draft from non-OECD countries should be actively sought. The importance of dissemination in several languages was also stressed. In order to allow for further development of the handbook in the future, it was suggested to use a dynamic format for publication (e.g. on the World Wide Web), which would allow the handbook to reflect more extensively presentation practices in the non-economic statistical areas. Committee members also noted the significance of the manual in the context of the work on standards for statistical data and metadata exchange in particular and in making effective arrangements for the sharing of data among international agencies in general.

I. Harmonization of the base year for index numbers

15. The Committee took note of the UNCTAD report on the implementation of the Committee's recommendation for international organizations to rebase by the end of 2005 their index numbers, using 2000 as base year.

J. Health statistics

16. The Committee welcomed the report by the World Health Organization on its efforts to implement the recommendations by the Statistical Commission. It took note of the announcement that WHO and the United Nations Statistics Division would work together to identify the issues on health statistics that required attention. The effort will include an assessment of existing coordination mechanisms and an exploration of the way in which an intersecretariat working group on health statistics could be most effective and efficient. WHO and the Division will keep relevant stakeholders fully informed and involved. Some members pointed out the urgent need for action in the area to have sufficient time to respond to the mandate given by the Statistical Commission. The view was expressed that the World Health

Organization, as the international agency with sector responsibilities in this field, would be expected to take the lead role.

K. Revision policies

17. The Committee took note of the announcement by the International Monetary Fund that their work on revision policies had been completed and that the paper entitled "Revisions policy for official statistics: a matter of governance"[1] had been published on the IMF web site. A link to the Committee's web site will be made available.

L. Household survey network

18. The Committee welcomed the announcement by the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO to launch jointly on 27 September 2004 an international household survey network, whose aim would be to facilitate further coordination among international agencies involved in conducting household surveys. Committee members observed that in order to strengthen national statistical systems, censuses, surveys and administrative records needed to be developed jointly, and encouraged the network to maintain the link with ongoing international work to develop all data sources. Several Committee members emphasized the usefulness of developing "model modules" to address specific statistical areas. Some Committee members asked for a better formulation of one of the proposed activities, the development of a minimum household survey programme, insisting that it should in no case consist of a prescriptive programme imposed by international agencies. Committee members expressed their support for two other proposed activities, the development of a survey data dissemination tool kit and the maintenance of a joint survey metadata repository. The conveners of the network offered to keep the Committee informed on the progress of the network.

M. Standards on data and metadata exchange

19. The Committee took note of the progress report on the SDMX initiative presented by OECD, in particular the announcement of the posting of version 1.0 of the proposed SDMX standards on the web for comments and the continued work on the pilot project on external debt statistics.

N. Issues related to the work of the task forces and intersecretariat working groups

20. The International Monetary Fund, as the convener of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics, announced the completion and printing of *Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice* and its availability in CD-ROM format and on the International Labour Organization web site. Furthermore, the IMF announced the completion of *Producer Price Indices Manual: Theory and Practice* as well as planned future work on a manual on international trade price indices. In its capacity as the convener of the Task Force on Finance Statistics, the IMF also announced that a central database on external debt, to be

located at the World Bank, will be launched in October/November. The World Trade Organization, as the convener of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Task Force, informed Committee members that the revision process of the SITC had been initiated. OECD, as the chair of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, reported to the Committee that the substantive work on the updating of the 1993 System of National Accounts was progressing around 44 specific issues that had been identified and that a project manager as well as an editor would be announced shortly. The United Nations Statistics Division, as the convener of the Inter-agency Working Group on Environment Statistics, announced that the group had been formed with the objective of coordinating data collection and that the initial focus would be on water statistics. Finally, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as the chair of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, informed the Committee that, after the publication of the handbook on trade in services, the group's focus was shifting towards monitoring country progress in data reporting and towards further work of the technical subgroups, such as the one on movements of foreign workers.

O. Major new initiatives planned by organizations

21. Committee members briefed each other on their respective major new initiatives, including the organization of special events, the launch of publications and/or other programme activities.

P. Other matters relating to the Statistical Commission

22. The Committee was briefed by the Division on the current discussion among member States on improving the working methods of the Statistical Commission.

Q. Other business

23. The Committee briefly discussed its web site. It agreed to continue to have password-protected access to documents relating to its regular working sessions. However, it also agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat to further develop a publicly accessible segment of the web site and to post more information, such as links to the web sites of Committee members.

24. With respect to the agenda of its next meeting on Monday, 28 February 2005, the Committee adopted the following list of issues: declaration of principles (United Nations Statistics Division), quality standards (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), tourism (World Tourism Organization), surveys (World Bank), Millennium Development Goal indicators (United Nations Statistics Division), information sharing on statistical capacity projects (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21)), statistical software (United Nations Statistics Division). Regarding its fall meeting, the Committee gratefully accepted the offer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to host it from 6-8 September 2005 in Rome.

25. The Committee elected Sylvester Young, Director of the Bureau of Statistics, ILO, as its new chairman for the biennium 2004-2006. It expressed its gratitude to the outgoing chairman, Andrew Flatt of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, for his effective leadership during the transition period from the former subcommittee of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the new Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

Notes

[1] **Carol S. Carson, Sarmad Khawaja and Thomas K. Morrison, "Revisions policy for official statistics: a matter of governance", IMF Working Paper No. WP/04/87 (Washington, D.C., 2004).**

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Activities not classified by field: programme questions
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Draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2006-2007

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work in the field of statistics for the biennium 2006-2007, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Statistical Commission in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. In section I, paragraph 7, of its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the General Assembly stressed the role of the relevant intergovernmental bodies in the consideration of the narrative of the proposed programme budget, as well as the necessity for a timely presentation of their recommendations on the budget.

2. The draft programme of work has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5 (Statistics) of programme 9 (Economic and social affairs). It will be implemented by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

3. The Commission is invited to comment and make recommendations, as appropriate, on the draft programme of work. These comments and recommendations will be taken into account, as appropriate, by the Secretary-General in finalizing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, which will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its spring session in 2005 and the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

* E/CN.3/2005/1.

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Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 for the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Objectives

To enhance the production by national statistical authorities of high-quality, timely, national, official statistics and indicators, using standardized statistical methods, classifications and definitions that promote international comparability, and foster their dissemination in support of national and international policy-making and monitoring in general, with particular attention to internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicator(s) of achievement*
(a) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries in transition to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields with improved quality, usefulness and accessibility, including the indicators for follow-up to United Nations conferences and for monitoring progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992	(a) (i) The number of national statistical offices implementing what they learned from workshops and advisory missions (ii) An increase in national data available in the Statistics Division database for monitoring progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992 (iii) An increase in the number of developing countries especially the least developed countries, countries in transition, and countries providing more complete data to the publications of the Division
(b) A strengthened global statistical system, with increased participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations, including progress in the harmonization and rationalization of development indicators	(b) (i) The number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars (ii) The number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicator(s) of achievement*
(c) Enhanced capability of national statistical offices to effectively respond to important needs, including those relating to new and critical issues in statistics	(c) (i) The number of participants from national statistical offices who indicate that their knowledge of new and critical issues increased as a result of attending workshops and seminars (ii) The number of new and critical issues reviewed and analysed in reports of the Statistics Division discussed by representatives of national statistical offices in the Statistical Commission, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars
(d) Better and broader use by governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public of statistical data and technical material produced by the subprogramme	(d) (i) The number of visitors to relevant sections of the Statistics Division web site (ii) The number of requests satisfied for statistical data in paper and electronic form
(e) Increased understanding of the use of geographical information systems for modern surveying and mapping activities and the standardization of geographical names at the national and local levels	(e) The number of participants at regional cartographic conferences and conferences on geographic names who report that they learned new substantive skills at the conferences

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that national statistical offices will have the necessary resources and capacity.

Outputs

During the biennium 2006-2007, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Fifth Committee on the scale of assessments (20);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Background documents and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Fifth Committee (2);

(ii) Committee on Contributions:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Committee on Contributions (90);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports and background papers and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Committee on Contribution (2);

(iii) Statistical Commission:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions of the Statistical Commission (14);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports to the Statistical Commission. The Statistical Commission in its 2005 session will decide on the exact topics (22);

(iv) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (16); twenty-third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (12); twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (4); and the seventeenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Asia and the Pacific (10);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Report on the ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1); report on the twenty-third session of the Group of Experts (1); report on the twenty-fourth session of the Group of Experts (1); and report on the seventeenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (1);

(v) Ad hoc expert groups. Expert group meetings on: population and housing censuses (1); international migration statistics (1); poverty measurement/social statistics (1); national accounts (1); trade statistics (1); international economic and social classifications (1); environment statistics (1); inter-agency and expert meeting on Millennium Development Goal indicators and development statistics (1);

(b) Other substantive outputs

(i) Recurrent publications:

- *Demographic Yearbook*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (print) (2)
- *Demographic Yearbook*, Special Topic, (2)
- *Vital Statistics Report*, (4)
- *Statistics on Women and Men*, Special Topic (2)
- Web site on demographic and social statistics, quarterly update (8)
- Web site on social indicators, quarterly update (8)
- *National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (print) (2)
- *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (print) (2)
- *Newsletter on National Accounts* (4)

- Web site on national accounts, annual update (2)
- *Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (2)
- Web site on industry statistics, annual update (2)
- *Energy Statistics Yearbook*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (print) (2)
- *Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles 2004*, (print) (1)
- Web site on energy statistics, annual update (2)
- *International Trade Statistics Yearbook*, vols. I and II, (print) (2)
- Web site on international trade statistics (2)
- Comtrade Databases on International trade statistics, (Internet annual update) (2)
- An online annex to *Yearbook of International Trade Statistics*, vols. I and II (2006 and 2007) (1)
- *Newsletter on International Trade Statistics* (8)
- *Newsletter on International Trade in Services* (4)
- Web site on international trade in services, annual update (2)
- Environmental country profiles, (Internet) (1)
- *Newsletter on Environment Statistics* (8)
- Web site on environment statistics, annual update (2)
- Web site on environmental accounting, annual update (2)
- Web site on good practices in official statistics, annual update (2)
- Web site on methodological work, annual update (2)
- Web site on City Groups, annual update (2)
- *Newsletter on Classifications* (4)
- Web site on classifications, annual update (2)
- *Statistical Yearbook*, 2006 and 2007 editions, (print and CD-ROM) (4)
- *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, 2006-2007, (print and Internet) (48)
- *World Statistics in Brief*, 2006 and 2007 editions, (print and Internet) (4)
- Millennium Development Goals, Data and Trends 2006 and 2007 (Internet) (2)
- Web site of the Millennium Indicators, annual update (2)
- United Nations Statistics Division Internet home page, quarterly update (8)
- Web site of the Statistics Division publications archive (2)

- *Statistics Newsletter*, (print and Internet) (8)
- Web site of the Common Database, quarterly update (8)
- *United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Information Bulletin* (2)
- Web site of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, annual update (2)
- Web site on Statistical Commission, annual update (2)

(ii) Non-recurrent publications:

- Principles and recommendations of population and housing censuses, revision 1 (update for 2010 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses) (1)
- *Housing Statistics Compendium* (1)
- *Handbook on National Accounts* (Special Topics) (2)
- CPC Version 2 (1)
- ISIC Revision 4 (1)
- Online database on International Trade in Services, annual update (2)
- Online database on national practices in compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (2)
- Online database on national practices in compilation and dissemination of international trade in services (2)
- Supplement to *Compilers manual on International Merchandise Trade Statistics* (1)
- Training material for the implementation of classifications: ISIC and CPC (1)
- Correlation tables among HS07, SITC Revision 3, BEC and SITC revision 4 (1)
- Standard International Trade Classification, revision 4 (1)
- Internet publication on "Progress towards the MDGs: 1990-2006" (2)
- Millennium Development Goal report and statistical annex for the Secretary-General's office (2)
- Publications in the field of geographical names

(iii) Technical material:

- Technical report on households, families and family arrangements (1)
- Proceedings of the Seminar on Water Statistics 2006 (1)

- Database technical development and maintenance, documentation and training in the areas of environmental statistics, energy statistics, commodity production statistics, index numbers of industrial production, national accounts, demographic statistics, international trade statistics and classifications (2)
- Standardized Statistical Data Metadata Exchange, collaboration with IMF, BIS et al. in inter-agency working group, 2005 (2)
- Responses to ad hoc requests from Member States and other users for information on internationally recommended concepts and methods, as well as national practices, in the aforementioned fields of statistics (2)
- Provision of information on computer tapes, diskettes, CD-ROMs, printouts and customized formats (2)
- Updated documentation on databases maintenance and revised training materials (2)

(c) Technical cooperation (Regular budget/extrabudgetary)[1]

(i) Advisory services (on government request) in statistics and statistical data processing to assist in the enhancement of national capabilities in the statistical offices of developing countries (2);

(ii) Training workshops aimed at capacity-building in statistics for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in various areas of statistics (2);

(iii) Fellowships, short-term training, study tours and on-the-job training for national statisticians from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to upgrade and strengthen their knowledge and skills in the area of statistics and to develop regional and international networks; as well as in the area of geographic information systems (2);

(iv) Provision of technical services to Member States and regional and interregional projects and training to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening national capabilities in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics (2);

(v) Provision of advice and technical assistance on scale of assessment methodology to other organizations (2).

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[1] Outputs (i) to (iv) will need to support specific programmes and priorities for developing statistical capacity-building, such as censuses, surveys of various kinds, environment statistics, analytical reporting as with Millennium Development Goal indicators of various kinds and collaboration with international funds, agencies and programmes in achieving coordinated national statistical programmes.

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Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

Draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission 2005-2008

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51, the proposed multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission is set out below. It is a revision of the programme of work for 2004-2007 considered by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session (see E/CN.3/2004/31), reflecting comments from members and observers of the Commission and a review by the United Nations Statistics Division of its work plans.

* E/CN.3/2005/1.

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Proposed multi-year work programme for the Statistical Commission

Agenda item[a]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
1. Demographic and social statistics				
(a) Population and housing censuses	X		X	
(b) Human settlements statistics				X
(c) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation (city group)		X		X
(d) Health statistics	X	X	X	X
(e) Social statistics		X		X
(f) Poverty statistics	X	X		
(g) Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (city group)		X		X
(h) Siena Group for Social Statistics (city group)		X		X
(i) Statistics of drugs and drug abuse				X
(j) Washington Group on Disability Measurement (city group)	X		X	
2. Economic statistics				
(a) National accounts	X	X	X	X
(b) Agricultural statistics			X	
(c) Industrial statistics		X	X	
(d) Round Table on Business Survey Frames (city group)		X		X
(e) Energy statistics	X	X		
(f) Distributive trade statistics		X		
(g) International merchandise trade statistics		X		X
(h) Statistics of international trade in services	X		X	
(i) Statistics of services	X		X	
(j) Information and communication technology statistics	X		X	
(k) Tourism statistics		X		
(l) Finance statistics			X	
(m) International Comparison Programme	X	X	X	X
(n) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (city group)	X		X	
(o) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics	X		X	
(p) Statistics of science and technology				X

Agenda item[a]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
(q) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (city group)	X		X	
(r) Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (city group)		X		X
3. Natural resources and environment statistics				
(a) Environment statistics	X	X		X
(b) Environmental accounting	X	X	X	
(c) London Group on Environmental Accounting		X		X
4. Activities not classified by field				
(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes	X	X	X	X
(b) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)	X	X	X	X
(c) Management issues in national statistical offices		X		
(d) Statistics of human development		X		
(e) Implementation of the fundamental principles of official statistics				
(f) International economic and social classifications	X	X	X	X
(g) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata	X			
(h) Presentation of statistical data and metadata	X			
(i) Coordination of ongoing methodological work		X		
(j) Statistical capacity-building	X	X	X	X
(k) Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division		X		
(l) Indicators	X	X	X	X
(m) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions	X	X	X	X
(n) Working methods of the Statistical Commission	X			
Total number of items	**24**	**28**	**22**	**22**

[a] The order of the agenda items is based on the Classification of Statistics and Statistical Activities of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (SA/2001/9 dated 16 August 2001).

Programme reviews

2003: statistics of services

2004: social statistics

2005: energy statistics

2006: industrial statistics